

# Igor Ferst

## STARTUP ENGINEER + DATA SPECIALIST

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## Summary

I am a veteran startup engineer specializing in data, with deep experience in fast-paced, large-scale, high-complexity environments. I've architected, built and scaled data platforms and data products at multiple early and growth-stage companies, most notably as the co-founder and CTO of a startup building an analytics platform for vehicle telematics data (Mobikit, acquired by Bridgestone).

Though a data engineer by trade, I have worked in all areas of data: data engineering, data science, analytics and BI, ML and MLOps, and GenAI. I thrive in roles that combine hands-on execution and strategic thinking, and enjoy working closely with stakeholders and data practitioners to maximize their data's business value.

## Work Experience

### Epidemic Sound

Stockholm, Sweden

#### SR. DATA ENGINEER

Jan. 2025 - present

First data engineer on an early-stage team building a new product in a data-heavy domain.

- Designed and built a data warehouse (DWH) and ELT data pipeline for large-scale social network data (TBs/mo) to support product features and mission-critical analytics.
- Design and implement self-serve data interfaces to large-scale, complex data for both internal and external customers.
- Own the DWH roadmap, continuously adapting to rapidly changing stakeholder requirements and market conditions.
- Responsible for vendor negotiation and FinOps.

#### DATA SCIENCE TEAM LEAD

June 2024 - Jan. 2025

Founding lead for a new team responsible for cultivating a data product culture within the data science domain.

- Articulated team vision after detailed discovery with data scientists, defined a roadmap, and got buy-in from leadership.
- Designed and implemented a technical toolkit for data product development that enabled traceability of ownership and automated error monitoring.
- Enhanced company's primary customer lifetime value model to support finer-grained cohorting while maintaining accuracy.
- Defined best practices around data product development, LLMs, and MLOps. Provided hands-on training to data scientists.

#### SR. ANALYTICS ENGINEER

Sept. 2023 - June 2024

Epidemic's analytics engineering team owns our data warehouse and supports Epidemic's analysts and data scientists with tooling, data products, and expertise.

- Designed and implemented a new pipeline code deployment process that significantly increased deployment frequency (2x/wk to daily) and reduced DWH downtime.
- Implemented DWH cost monitoring which was critical during renegotiation with GCP; stakeholder called it "a huge win".
- Implemented DWH integration with new CRM tool; stakeholder said "never before in my career has an integration actually been delivered on time with no hiccups".

### Bridgestone Mobility Solutions

Stockholm, Sweden

#### DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

Feb. 2021 - Aug. 2023

My startup Mobikit (see below) was acquired and its product incorporated into Bridgestone's software portfolio as a data-driven fleet risk management product for insurance carriers called SafetyIQ. Post-acquisition, I integrated Mobikit with Bridgestone's engineering and sales orgs, and continued to lead product development for SafetyIQ.

### Mobikit

Columbus (OH), USA

#### CO-FOUNDER/CTO

Jan. 2019 - Feb. 2021

Technical co-founder of a startup building a data analytics platform for large-scale vehicle telematics data. I oversaw data engineering, product development, and customer implementation.

- Architected and led development of distributed ETL data pipeline to ingest and enrich telematics data from heterogeneous sources (millions of trips per month).
- Led design and development for data-driven features such as risk analytics, outlier detection, accident reconstruction, and more.
- Contributed code across the entire stack, from data pipeline to application backend to UI.
- Grew and managed globally distributed team of developers and data scientists, from interns to seniors (8 people at its highest).
- Raised funding, guided company to product-market fit, and exited successfully.

## Root Insurance

### SR. SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Columbus (OH), USA

Sept. 2018 - Jan. 2019

Worked at a growth-stage insurtech unicorn on multiple data-intensive projects.

- Prototyped a random forest model to enhance insurance rate accuracy.
- Implemented support for new rating methodologies and executed historical backtests for rating changes.
- Python SME for engineering and actuarial teams.

## Enlace Health

### LEAD SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Columbus (OH), USA

Sept. 2014 - Feb. 2018

Enlace is a healthtech company building large-scale data analytics tools to support innovative models of healthcare delivery. I joined as an early employee working on the analytics platform, and was then asked to lead a team building a new product.

- Led a cross-functional team building a care management and revenue cycle management product for surgical centers.
- Owned product design and technical architecture, maintained product roadmap, implemented features.
- Designed and implemented a novel graph algorithm in Spark for processing healthcare claims data.

## InSample

### SOFTWARE ENGINEER

San Francisco (CA), USA

Mar. 2014 - Sept. 2014

First employee at a healthcare analytics startup building a cloud-based tool for statistical de-biasing of clinical experiments.

Together with the CTO, I interviewed prospective customers, and designed and built the product prototype.

## Google

### SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Mountain View (CA), USA

Feb. 2013 - Mar. 2014

I was part of the conversion tracking team building tools that Google's customers use to understand the effectiveness of their ad spend. I implemented a novel conversion tracking visualization for the AdWords suite of analytics tools and developed enhancements to the Google Analytics Markov-chain-based attribution model.

## Palantir Technologies

### FORWARD DEPLOYED ENGINEER

Palo Alto (CA), USA

Jan. 2011 - Jan. 2013

I worked on Palantir's data integration and quantitative research platform for capital markets. I was a developer and product owner for the platform's visualization and reporting features, and was embedded with the platform's largest customer (Bridgewater Associates).

## Skills

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<b>General</b>	Data engineering, data modeling, software engineering, analytics, data science/ML, technical leadership
<b>Languages</b>	Python, SQL, Javascript, Java
<b>Data Tools</b>	dbt, BigQuery, PostgreSQL, Hex, Looker, LLMs, pandas, Spark, Beam
<b>Infrastructure</b>	GCP, AWS, Docker, Airflow, Terraform, Github

## Education

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### Cornell University

#### M.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Ithaca (NY), USA

- PhD candidate in Applied Mathematics supported by a US National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.
- Published original research in algorithms and mathematical optimization: <https://tinyurl.com/ycheu4us>

### University of Waterloo

#### M.MATH. IN COMBINATORICS & OPTIMIZATION

Waterloo (Ontario), Canada

### University of Chicago

#### B.S. IN MATHEMATICS WITH HONORS

Chicago (IL), USA

- Published original research in mathematics as an undergraduate, earning an Erdős number of 2.